Eisenhower's Charm Tops Military Skill, Briton Says

LONDON, Feb. 16 (P).—Britain's top strategist of World War II says Dwight D. Eisenhower's strong point as a commander was his charm rather than military ability.

Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke, wartime chief of the imperial general staff (1941-46), made his observation in a war diary forming the basis of a new book released tomorrow, "The Turn of The Tide."

peerage, the general was known most of us receive in life. as Sir Alan Francis Brooke.

as strategists, including Gen exceptionally charming individ-George C. Marshall, chief of ual. As Supreme Commander possible to argue with him as staff. But he praised Gen. Doug-las MacArthur as "the greatest military ability he greatly made a strategic problem." general of the last war" and up for by the charm of his spoke well of Gen. Walter Bedell personality."

Arthur Bryant, notedi victory.

note to his diary referring to Gen. Eisenhower, said:

war, but tactics, strategy and who thought of anything but atcommand were never his strong tacking even in the darkest days points.

. . Where he shone was his ability to handle Állied forces, to treat them all with strict impartiality, and to get the very best out of an interallied force. Prime Minister retorted angrily:

"In all the early times he was uncommonly well served by his chief of staff, Bedell Smith, who initiative." had far more flair for military matters than his master."

hoped to lead the allied invasion forces into France—an assignment that went to Gen. Eisenhower-went on to comment:

derful tcharm that carried him American (ar; perhaps his great asset was great organizer "it is quite im-

Before being elevated to the a greater share of luck than

"However, if Ike had rather Lord Alanbrooke did not have more than his share of luck we, very high opinion of most as allies, were certainly extreme-United States military leaders ly fortunate to have such an

Rows With Churchill

British historian, who wrote the ous Irishman, devotes most of might have been if I had had book credits Alanbrooke with be- his diaries to details of rows with MacArthur instead of Marshall ing the mastermind of the grand Winston Churchill, though he to deal with." strategy that brought the allies pays tribute to the wartime

a ruthless boss always ready to the importance of crushing Ger-"He learned a lot during the denounce as "defeatist" anyone many before Japan. of the war.

Once when his chief of staff tried to dissuade Sir Winston from a spur of the moment idea calling for a fantastic attack, the

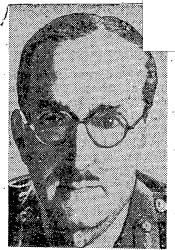
long-term projects, they cripple

Lord Alanbrooke went to all the major wartime conferences
Lord Alanbrooke, who had

The major wartime conferences
with Sir Winston after the United States entry into the war.

At Odds With Marshall

The British Field Marshal was repeatedly at odds with Gen. counterpart was



VISCOUNT ALANBROOKE

In a postwar postscript, Lord Alanbrooke wrote:

· "I have often wondered since Lord Alanbrooke, an impetu-the war how different matters

Britain's main headaches, he The Learned a Lot"

"saved the world from Nazi from launching a cross-channel domination."

Lord Alanbrooke, in a foot- domination."

Clashed With King

Lord Alanbrooke said Gen. Marshall once pressed for a cross-channel strike as early as 1942. Alanbrooke said this would have led to disaster

The British chief of staff told, "I do not want any of your late Admiral Ernest King, whom too, of repeated clashes with the he accused of looking only to the Pacific.

Lord Alanbrooke often protested against the way Washing ton and London "bowed and scraped" to the Russians, especially when the Soviets were clamoring for a second front.

Lord Alanbrooke was im-... Ike was blest with a won- Marshall. He said though his pressed with Stalin, however, and a wrote in his diary after first meeting the Soviet dictator " I was much impressed by his astuteness and his crafty cleverness. He is a realist, and with little flattery about him, and not

ooking for much flattery either."